

8-005 2008 DALE FARM  
LETTER FROM COUNCIL

# Basildon Council

BASILDON • BILLERICAY • WICKFORD

Mr G Puxon  
1 Harper Street  
Colchester  
CO1 1RP

Date 29<sup>th</sup> January 2008  
Please ask for Dawn French  
Department Development, Property & Health  
Tel. No. 01268 294858  
Fax No. 01268 294550  
E-Mail dawn.french@basildon.gov.uk  
Our Ref  
Your Ref

Dear Mr Puxon

**RE: Proposals for Emergency Accommodation.**  
**AT: Dale Farm, Crays Hill.**

Thank you for your 'e mails' of the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 and 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2008. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you earlier. Your email details a proposal for an alternative to eviction for the occupiers at Dale Farm.

Your proposal suggests relocating mobile homes, chalets and trailer caravans to land at Terminus Drive, Pitsea with support from Constant & Co, to avoid eviction and damage to the occupiers properties or property being placed in a storage facility. Although the Council would encourage the occupiers to vacate the site and find suitable alternative accommodation ahead of direct action, the relocation of mobile homes caravans and trailers to Terminus Drive would not be supported by the Council as the site is not considered to be a suitable alternative site as it does not benefit from the appropriate planning permission.

The application 07/00393/FULL to develop the land at Terminus Drive for five plots for travellers was considered by the Council at Development Control and Traffic Management committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2007 and refused on a number of grounds.

The circumstances have not changed since that decision was made and the Council will not therefore withdraw its objections to the use of this land as a temporary site for travellers. The application is now the subject of an appeal, which will be determined in due course.

In response to your proposal regarding the establishment of a 'tent city' to accommodate those that may be made homeless as a result of any action the Council may carry out, Mr Simpson will respond, separately on your questions relating to waiving planning conditions in relation to occupying land adjacent to Dale Farm.

In your email of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January you make additional enquiries regarding what items Basildon Council hold in stock for emergencies, which could be used to assist you in your proposal to establish an emergency tented camp.

**Basildon District Council**  
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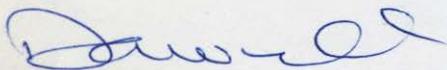


The Council do not hold any of the items referred to in stock. In the event of any emergency evacuations where rest centres are required, the Council use pre-identified buildings that are equipped with necessary facilities, and call upon voluntary agencies in respect of catering needs.

Please be advised that forced removal would be a last resort and it would be hoped the occupiers removing themselves and their property from the site would resolve matters. If that did not happen the Council would carefully plan the necessary operations taking into account the needs of the individuals, with consideration to any duties imposed on the Council with regard to the Housing Act, Health and Safety legislation and Civil Contingencies Act.

I hope this information is useful.

Yours Sincerely



Dawn French  
Head of Development, Property & Health